GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2381
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
DEATHS CAUSED BY T.B.
HEMA GAMANG

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of T.B. patients have lost their lives due to inadequate facilities and inappropriate medication in various Government Hospitals in Delhi during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of patients died in various hospitals in Delhi during the period; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to provide treatment of international standard to T.B. patients in various hospitals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): Deaths of TB patients are more in hospitals. It is not due to inadequate facilities and improper medication but because of the fact that majority of the patients admitted for treatment in hospitals are in advanced stages of tuberculosis with complications like damaged lungs, TB meningitis, miliary tuberculosis and associated diseases i.e. Diabetes, HIV etc. Under the programme, hospital wise details of patients and deaths are not maintained. In Delhi under RNTCP during year 2001-02 out of 25533 TB patients put on treatment, 600 died which comes to 2.34%. This is much less than the estimated death rate of 29% in the earlier programme. In case of Rajan Babu TB Hospital and LRS Institute of TB & Allied Diseases, Delhi death rate has been 16.34% and 13.06% respectively due to reasons stated above.

(c): With an objective to achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum cases and to detect atleast 70% of such cases, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) which is a WHO recommended DOTs strategy is being implemented in the country since 1997 in a phased manner. The State of Delhi is fully covered under revised strategy since year 2001. RNTCP project in Delhi has reported treatment success rate of more than 80% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients detected and put on treatment on the revised strategy are successfully treated as against less than 4 in the earlier programme. The best possible treatment is being provided under the programme.